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HOUSE APPROVES FUNDing FOR ISOLATION ROOMS FOR NEW OSCEOLA MEDICAL CENTER FACILITY

Seventh District Congressmen Dave Obey (D-WI) announced today that the U.S. House of Representatives has approved his request for \$150,000 in the FY08 Labor, Health, Education Appropriations Bill to allow for the installation of three negative pressure isolation rooms in the new Osceola Medical Center building.

“Whether they are dealing with bird flu or the common cold, our medical centers should have the facilities they need to keep patients, staff and visitors safe,” said Obey, the Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee and the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Education . “That’s why we’re working with the Osceola Medical Center to provide for five isolation rooms in the new facility they are constructing.”

The Osceola Medical Center has served residents of the Upper St. Croix Valley, the fastest growing region in the State of Wisconsin, for over 70 years. To meet growing demand, the Medical Center is planning a new, state-of-the-art facility. The federal funds are intended to provide for three negative pressure rooms in the medical center to limit exposure of communicable

illnesses to other patients. Currently, patients requiring such care are transported to other facilities.

The Labor, Health, Education Appropriations measure must now be approved by the Senate before it can be sent to the President.

“But having these funds included in the House approved version means a major hurdle has been cleared,” Obey concluded.

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